

NIDDERDALE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1954

by

D. D. PAYNE, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

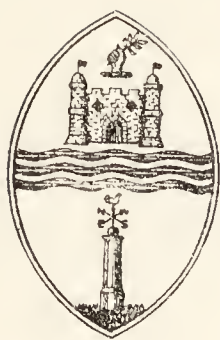
Medical Officer of Health





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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1954

Chairman : Colonel S. Rhodes, C.B., D.S.O.

Vice-Chairman : Hardcastle, J. A.

Councillors:

Ambler, Major E.	Hildreth, F.
Ashton, F. H.	Meysey-Thompson, Col., O.V.C.
Bellerby, W.	Nelson, Thomas J.
Booth, H. E.	Powell, Baden
Brunskill, Brig. G. S., M.C., C.B.E.	Proctor, H.
Cariss, J. W. D.	Skirrow, W.
Cooper, J., J.P.	Slater, E.
Crowther, A. C.	Stourton, The Hon. C. E.
Cundall, A.	Stead, Mrs. E.
Dent, J. H.	Thompson, Whately, Major, J.P.
Featherston, Capt. W. H., M.B.E. J.P.	Yewdall, C. D.
Fawcitt, N.	Yeoman, G. R.
Gregson, A. T.	

NIDDERDALE RURAL DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

D. D. PAYNE, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

P. S. R. BURRELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector:

W. H. DINGSDALE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

G. TEALE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

R. HULLAH,

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Clerical Staff : Engineer, Surveyor and Health Department.

Mr. B. FOSTER.

Miss D. I. ANDERTON.

Miss M. KIRK.

To the Chairman and Members of the

NIDDERDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I submit for your information and consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for 1954.

There was little infectious disease in the district during the year. Of the 28 cases of Scarlet Fever notified the majority occurred during March at the Army Apprentices School at Hildebrand Barracks. Measles showed an increased incidence compared with 1953, this increase was mainly due to outbreaks in the parishes of Killinghall and Whixley in May and June which accounted for 86 cases out of a total of 116 cases in the whole district during the year.

Without wishing to minimise the continued importance of environmental and sanitary hygiene, as for example good housing and pure water supplies, it will be recognised that the concept of public health has extended beyond these boundaries and much of the emphasis of a Health Department is now placed on the development and improvement of the social services. Much still requires to be done to provide for the welfare of the elderly, to prevent the onset of mental ill health and to reduce the number of accidents in the home. Many problems in child care are still under active investigation by Health Departments. This district is included in a survey spread over twelve years being made on the effects of premature birth on the later mental and physical development of the child and also in a national survey of the health and development of children, organised by the Institute of Child Health in which all children born in a particular week in March, 1946, who are drawn from all social classes and from all parts of Great Britain are being followed up through the primary school period.

The provision of adequate health services to scattered rural communities presents its own special problems. One successful extension of the child welfare service has been the provision of a mobile Clinic which visits villages in the district and gives facilities for mothers to seek advice on the healthy upbringing of their children without having to undertake lengthy and time consuming journeys to clinics situated in larger centres of population.

I desire to acknowledge the support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Council and to record my appreciation of the work of Mr. Dingsdale and his staff.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

D. D. PAYNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1955

General Statistics, 1954

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	75,009
Population (mid-summer, 1954, estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,520
Number of inhabited houses, March 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,902
Rateable Value, March 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	£75,052
Produce of a Penny Rate, March 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	£291
Live Births :	Males		Females				
Legitimate, 82	}	86	Legitimate, 82	}	85		171
Illegitimate, 4			Illegitimate, 3				
Crude Birth Rate (Live births per 1,000 of the estimated population)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.0
*Corrected Birth Rate (per 1,000 of the estimated population)	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.7
Still Births :	Males		Females				
Legitimate, 0	}	0	Legitimate, 1	}	1		1
Illegitimate, 0			Illegitimate, 0				
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.8
Number of Deaths—Males 78, Females 64	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
Crude Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.1
*Corrected Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.0
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :	Males		Females				
Legitimate 1	}	1	Legitimate 1	}	1		2
Illegitimate 0			Illegitimate 0				
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :							
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0
	Rate (per 1,000 population)						
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0
Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases. 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.13
Deaths from Infective and Parasitic Diseases, (excluding Tuberculosis) 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.06
Deaths from Vascular lesions of the nervous system. 28	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.8
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Diseases. 50	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.2
Deaths from Cancer. 23	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.5
Deaths from Respiratory Diseases. 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.6
*Adjusted by Area Comparability factors supplied by the Registrar-General which adjust for the changing age structure of the population (Births 1.24 and Deaths 0.99).							

Causes of Death in Nidderdale Rural District, 1954.

Causes of Death						1954	
						Male	Female
All Causes						78	64
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	1	1
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	1
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	4	—
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	5
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	2	8
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	16	12
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	13	9
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	3	—
20	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	12	11
21	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	—	2
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	1
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	3	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	2	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	7	6
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	3	—
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	—	1
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total						142	

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1. POPULATION.

The population estimated by the Registrar General at the end of June 1954, was 15,520, a decrease of 40 as compared with the estimated population of the previous year.

2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief industry of the district is agriculture and the communal life in every village is based upon farming.

3. BIRTHS.

(a) Live Births.

The number of live births registered in Nidderdale during the year was 39, 22 males and 17 females, but the corrected figure supplied by the Registrar General which takes into account inward and outward transfers was 171, 86 males and 85 females. This was a decrease of 34 on the figure for 1953.

The birth rate, when adjusted by the area comparability factor as given by the Registrar General, was 13.7 per thousand of the population which was 1.5 less than the rate for England and Wales (15.2).

There were 7 illegitimate births, 4 males and 3 females, representing 4.1 per cent of the live births.

(b) Still Births.

After adjustment for inward and outward transfers there was 1 still birth, in a female child, during the year. This gave a rate of 5.8 per thousand live and still births, compared with 23.4 the rate for England and Wales.

4. Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 91, 44 males and 47 females, but the number of deaths of residents corrected for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar General was 142, 78 males and 64 females. The crude death rate was 9.1 per thousand, but when adjusted in accordance with the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General, the rate was reduced to 9.0 per thousand, as compared with 11.3 for England and Wales.

The causes of death are shown in the table on page 8.

5. INFANT MORTALITY.

During the year 2 resident infants, 1 male and 1 female, died before reaching their first birthday. The infant mortality rate was 11.7 per thousand live births compared with the rate of 25.5 for England and Wales.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The names and qualifications of these are set out on page 4.

2. HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The chemical analysis of water is carried out by Messrs. Richardson and Jaffé, Bradford. The assessment of plumbo solvency is undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Wakefield.

The examination of clinical material, throat swabs, etc., is undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory at the Harrogate General Hospital. Water, milk and other foodstuffs are also bacteriologically examined at this laboratory.

Nidderdale is fortunate in having a public health laboratory situated so close at hand. Dr. D. J. H. Payne is the bacteriologist in charge of this laboratory, and there is the closest co-operation between the laboratory and the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

The services of the laboratory are most valuable when there is an outbreak of infection or suspected cases of food poisoning. The control of infectious disease is a matter of team work between the public Health Department, the Medical Practitioner and the Public Health Laboratory Service.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance facilities are provided by the West Riding County Council from an area depot situated at the Parade Garage, Harrogate, with sub-depots covering the outer areas at Ripon and Pateley Bridge. The service is provided free under the National Health Service Act and covers removal of infectious cases to hospital.

Of the 5 ambulances, 4 are equipped with short wave transmission and reception apparatus, enabling information to be passed to and from central control. By this means, ambulances can be diverted to accidents and other emergencies and can save life and time.

3. DIVISIONAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Full details of the Divisional Health Services regarding Division No. 8 which covers the areas of Harrogate, Knaresborough and Nidderdale, and which are administered from the Divisional Health Office, Municipal Offices, Harrogate, have been circulated to all members of the Council.

These services include Maternity and Child Welfare, School Health and Dental, Care and After-Care, Midwifery, Home Nursing, Home Help and Mental Health Services.

Brief details of some of these services are given as follows :

(a) Health Visiting and School Nursing.

Health visiting and School Nursing have been carried out in the district by a whole-time health visitor living at Hessay and by a part-time school nurse who is resident in Harrogate. Three other health visitors also resident in Harrogate undertake part-time duties in the Nidderdale Rural District.

(b) School Health Services.

These services are administered by the West Riding County Council through the Divisional School Medical Officer. School children are medically examined periodically at schools at routine medical inspections and any cases found to require treatment are referred where necessary, to their private practitioner, to the Minor Ailments Clinics which are held in Harrogate and Knaresborough, or to a Specialist Clinic in Knaresborough and Harrogate. These Specialist Clinics include Cardiac, Ophthalmic, Orthoptic, Orthopaedic, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics, and a Clinic for children with defective speech. There is also in Harrogate, a General School Clinic for cases requiring a more complete medical examination than is possible at the schools.

400 children in attendance at schools in the Nidderdale Rural District were given routine medical examinations during the year. In addition 218 special inspections and 200 re-inspections were also carried out.

Dental inspection of children is undertaken at the schools and treatment is provided at the Dental Clinic, Chain Lane, Knaresborough, for those children whose schools are within easy distance of Knaresborough. For the more distant schools in the Division treatment is provided by means of a Mobile Dental Treatment Unit.

(c) Special Examination of Handicapped Children.

Special examinations are made where it is found that a child is educationally retarded, in certain cases special education is advised. At the end of the year there were 12 children resident in the Nidderdale Rural District who were educationally sub-normal, of whom 7 were attending special residential schools for this purpose.

Children who are ineducable are reported to the Mental Deficiency Committee of the West Riding County Council. These cases are placed under supervision and are visited from time to time by the Mental Health Social Worker.

Other children who are physically handicapped are recommended for admission to special schools when this is considered desirable. 2 blind children and 2 deaf children, and 1 epileptic child were also attending residential special schools. 1 partially sighted child was attending a special day school in York.

(d) Children Leaving School.

There is close liaison with the Youth Employment Officer, and medical reports are made from time to time to the Youth Employment Officer on children who are leaving school and who are, in some way, handicapped. Information is given as to any occupation which would not be suitable for a particular child on medical grounds. Where the disability is severe, and the parents give consent in writing, more detailed medical reports are given in order that the case may be registered under the Disabled Persons Act. This Act gives certain advantages to disabled persons, these include priority in gaining suitable employment.

(e) Maternity Services.

175 births including 1 still-birth, were notified in respect of Nidderdale residents during the year. Of these, 42 confinements took place at home attended by domiciliary midwives. 66 births took place in the maternity block of the Harrogate General Hospital, 18 in the Carlton Lodge Maternity Home, Harrogate, 22 in Ripon Maternity Home, and 27 in other institutions.

(f) Home Nursing.

Eight home nurses have undertaken work in the area during the year, and their services are much appreciated by the community. The majority of the work of the Home Nursing Service is amongst the elderly, particularly those who have some crippling defect and who are bed-ridden owing to chronic illness.

(g) **Home Help Service.**

At the end of the year 11 part-time home helps were employed in Nidderdale. The total number of hours worked during the year was 7,625 as compared with 6,572 in 1953.

Assistance was given to 49 cases, of these, 12 were due to illness in the home, excluding illness of aged persons, and 27 related to illness or infirmity of the aged. Home helps were supplied to 1 case of tuberculosis, 1 expectant mother, and 14 maternity cases, thus enabling the mothers to have their babies at home.

(h) **Child Welfare Centres.**

These centres are held at Boroughbridge, Poppleton and Whixley.

In addition, an advice centre is held in a building provided by the Army authorities for the use of families of officers and men at the Hildebrand Barracks, Harrogate. On two afternoons each month the mothers bring their babies for advice from the health visitor and for weighing. Although there is no doctor in attendance, cases considered to require medical advice are referred to their general practitioners or to the main clinic at 2, Dragon Parade, Harrogate. Infant foods are available at this centre.

282 children attended at these centres during the year, making a total number of attendances of 1,609. Of these, 72 of the children attended for the first time.

(i) **Mobile Clinic.**

The Mobile Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic was used in this area for the first time in June, 1953, and during that year visited the villages of Hampsthwaite, Follifoot and Burton Leonard. In response to requests by Killinghall residents this village was also visited during 1954. The Mobile Clinic comes to the district once a fortnight.

Mothers with children under five form the majority of users of the clinic, 87 such children attended, making in all 348 attendances. Expectant mothers and school children are also seen on occasion. Immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination are carried out and, in the case of the younger children, immunisation against whooping cough.

THE PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND THEIR CONTROL

The number of cases notified are set out in a table on page 16.

1. SCARLET FEVER.

28 cases of scarlet fever were notified as compared with 37 cases in 1953. 24 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and 4 were isolated at home.

2. DIPHTHERIA.

No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The health visitors, during their visits to children under one year in particular, stress the need for diphtheria immunisation, and it is felt that personal persuasion of this character is the best form of propaganda.

112 immunisations were carried out during the year and in addition 153 reinforcing injections were given to children in whom the degree of immunity had been diminished by the length of time since their initial inoculation.

3. POLIOMYELITIS.

1 case of poliomyelitis was notified during the year in a child aged 12 years. The child was admitted to an isolation hospital but fortunately no paralysis developed and after a period of treatment for three weeks the child was discharged from hospital fit and well.

4. WHOOPING COUGH.

3 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year as compared with 56 in the previous year.

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

The number of whooping cough immunisations carried out during 1954 was 71.

5. MEASLES.

116 cases of measles were notified during the year as compared with 95 cases in 1953.

6. PNEUMONIA.

7 cases of pneumonia were notified during the year.

7. **DYSENTERY.**

No case of dysentery was notified during the year.

8. **PUERPERAL PYREXIA.**

No case of puerperal pyrexia was notified during the year.

9. **FOOD POISONING.**

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

10. **SMALLPOX.**

No case of smallpox occurred in the area during the year.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

During the year 92 vaccinations against smallpox and 19 re-vaccinations were carried out in the area.

11. **ERYSIPELAS.**

No case of erysipelas was notified during the year.

12. **TUBERCULOSIS.**

5 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 3 males and 2 females were notified during the year. No new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during this period. 6 patients were admitted to Sanatoria and 6 patients removed from the area. There were 4 deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

Age groups of notified cases of infectious diseases for the year 1954.

No. of Cases Notified Ages—Years	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Measles	Whooping Cough
Under 1	—	—	—	4	—
1—2	1	—	—	7	1
3—4	1	—	—	21	1
5—9	6	—	—	72	1
10—14	1	1	1	8	—
15—24	19	—	—	2	—
25 and over	—	6	—	2	—
Total notified	28	7	1	116	3
No of cases admitted to Hospital	24	—	1	—	—
Total No. of Deaths of Notified Cases	—	—	—	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Section 47)

No case of a person in need of care and attention and requiring removal to suitable premises arose in the area during the year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR FOR THE YEAR 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District
Council of Nidderdale,

I submit for your information and consideration, my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1954, and in doing so would like to express the opinion that definite progress has been made in the activity of the department during the year.

The appointment of a second Additional Sanitary Inspector and a male Chief Clerk has enabled me to commence the re-organisation of the work of the department. Both appointments are proving wise in view of legislation passed during the year, the duties under which it would otherwise be impossible to carry out efficiently.

Apart from a steady increase in routine work, I refer particularly to the return of private slaughtering and the Housing Act, 1954. Property owners are responding very well to the offer of "Improvement" Grants, and this will enable constructive work to be carried out throughout the area, improving housing standards generally.

Whilst there is still a need to complete the Council's post-war re sewerage schemes as soon as possible, the acquisition of the new cesspit emptier during the year is already proving invaluable to the work of the Department.

I desire to record my thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Council and the Medical Officer of Health for their co-operation and progressive approach to the very varied work of the Department, and to my staff, foremen and men for their loyalty and co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen.

Your obedient servant,

W. H. DINGS DALE.

21st February, 1955.

GENERAL STATISTICS 1954

Parishes	Estimated Population 1951 census	No. of Dwellings	Water Supplies Population supplied by	
			Mains	Standpipes
Allerton-Mauleverer-with- Hopperton	160	42	40	15
Arkendale	132	41	98	
Boroughbridge	1,847	552	1,798	
Brearton	141	42	76	
Burton Leonard	448	168	392	
Cattal	140	38	110	
Coneythorpe and Clareton	46	14	28	
Copgrove	66	25	Private	
Dunsforth Lower	113	22	64	
Dunsforth Upper-with- Branton Green	146	41	139	
Farnham	107	38	99	
Felliscliffe	280	77	70	
Ferrensby	104	43	104	
Flaxby	55	13	45	
Follifoot	365	122	351	
Goldsborough	157	48	127	15
Great Ouseburn	249	108	236	
Great Ribston-with Walshford	134	37	81	
Green Hammerton	523	183	496	
Hampsthwaite	579	187	503	
Haverah Park	54	12	Private	
Hessay	117	31	103	
Hunsingore	121	39	116	
Killinghall	2,206	325	1,180	
Kirby Hall	31	11	19	
Kirk Hammerton	381	125	364	
Knapton	91	29	60	
Knaresborough Outer	80	18	Private	
Little Ouseburn	206	68	199	15
Marton-with-Grafton	362	127	318	
Moor Monkton	192	56	172	
Nidd	147	42	Private	
Nun Monkton	251	81	208	
Pannal (Beckwithshaw)	261	86	232	
Plompton	114	29	101	
Poppleton Nether	362	118	351	
Poppleton Upper	633	254	615	
Ripley	191	63	Private	
Roecliffe	179	53	151	
Rufforth	658	98	326	
Scotton	415	126	401	
Scriven	204	40	204	
Stainley-with-Cayton	213	57	Private	
Staveley	300	125	289	
Thornville	20	7	11	
Thorpe Underwoods	133	38	80	
Walkingham-Hill-with Occaney	28	7	Private	
Westwick	14	3	Private	
Whixley	737	175	482	
Widdington	19	4	4	
	14,512	4,088		

The estimated population (mid 1954) is 15,520.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Private Supplies.

In view of the Council's vigorous post-war approach to the provision of piped water supplies throughout their area only eight communities now rely on private supplies from wells, springs or boreholes—i.e. Copgrove, Felliscliffe, Haverah Park, Nidd, Ripley, South Stainley, Walkingham Hill and Westwick.

By the end of the year Schemes were being considered to provide piped water to the villages of South Stainley and Copgrove, and other small extensions to cater for isolated farms and hamlets.

Sampling of private water supplies increased; 131 samples were submitted for examination, 41 of which proved unsatisfactory. The majority of these unsatisfactory samples were found during routine sampling in the villages of South Stainley and Copgrove.

Advice and assistance is freely given when unsatisfactory drinking water supplies are discovered, and in most cases owners co-operate by providing piped water when at all possible. It is hoped that the pre-war practice of extensive sampling of private supplies will shortly be re-introduced. Apart from the Public Health necessity for pure and wholesome drinking water supplies, farmers are becoming increasingly conscious that a satisfactory supply is essential for the farming industry.

During the year the supply to the village of Ripley, which derives its supply from a land spring, again came under review. A very close watch continues to be kept on the automatic chlorination of this supply, because in times of heavy rain the raw water is known to be unsuitable without efficient chlorination. 18 samples were taken from this supply, 16 of which were found to be quite satisfactory.

Practically the whole of the water supplies in your area are "hard" and there is no risk of plumbo-solvency.

(b) Public Supplies.

The district, as a whole, is well supplied with piped water; 29 villages are served from the Council's own undertakings at Grafton and Burton Leonard.

A further 12 villages are supplied in detail by Harrogate Corporation and 3 by York Waterwork's Company, all of which are outside the Council's Statutory Area of supply.

It is estimated that 85.4 per cent of the population are now supplied with piped water.

It is suggested that the provision of mechanical excavation plant and the employment of a small direct labour force (which was the practice before the war) could be more economically applied to complete numerous small extensions to isolated areas in the Council's own Statutory Area of supply. Without mechanisation and the employment of direct labour, the cost of carrying out many necessary small extensions is becoming almost prohibitive, particularly when it is a feature of rural engineering that long lengths of unproductive main are so often involved.

A total of 276 inspections were made to schemes of water supply, connections and works in progress, by the Council's Officers (excluding 426 visits by the Waterwork's Foreman).

New Consumers (including field troughs and farms) 33

Rechargeable Works (Waterwork's Dept. Labour) £42

Total Water Pumped:—

Grafton	...	...	...	77,000,000 Galls.
---------	-----	-----	-----	-------------------

Burton Leonard	...	...	...	6,000,000 Galls.
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Boroughbridge and District Water Supply continues to grow into a sizeable undertaking and during the year 29 burst mains were attended to. This undertaking is now responsible for no less than 52 miles of main of various classes, and although pumping and softening is fully automatic, the increasing amount of maintenance work and routine servicing of plant and equipment will shortly call for some provision to be made for assistance for the Waterwork's Foreman. Your technical staff are now operating the plant during holiday and sickness periods.

Evidence of traces of manganese in the Gallaber Borehole water necessitates fairly regular mains flushing, but is not as yet considered to be in sufficient quantity to justify additional treatment.

3. DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

(a) Sewers and Works (Satisfactory).

The following parishes are provided with modern (or adequate) sewerage and sewage disposal facilities:—

Boroughbridge	Green Hammerton	Nether Poppleton
Aldborough	Hampsthwaite	Ripley
Minskip	Kirk Hammerton	Scotton
Farnham	Little Ouseburn	Scriven
Ferrensby	Grafton	Staveley
Follifoot	Nidd	Walkingham Hill
Goldsborough	Nun Monkton	Whixley
Great Ouseburn	Upper Poppleton	
		Total — 23

Both new sewage works at Kirk Hammerton and Boroughbridge continue to give satisfaction, although operational difficulties do arise, principally at Kirk Hammerton, due to the production of large quantities of sludge which must be disposed of as produced. By utilising the new cesspit emptier, sludge can now be handled with relative ease, weather permitting. Any farmer wishing to purchase this sludge may do so and utilise the tanker.

(b) Sewers and Works (Unatisfactory).

The Council are aware that in various degrees the villages of

Allerton-with-	Dunsforth Lower	Knapton
Hopperton	Dunsforth Upper	Marton
Arkendale	Kettlesing	Moor Monkton
Brearton	Flaxby	Beckwithshaw
Burton Leonard	Walshford	Roecliffe
Cattal	Hessay	Rufforth
Coneythorpe	Hunsingore	South Stainley
Copgrove	Killinghall	

are inadequately catered for, either by way of lack of modern sewers and/or outfall works and must be considered for modernisation as and when opportune.

(c) Cesspit Emptyer.

To minimise the potential nuisance in villages without modern disposal facilities, and to offer a service to some 600 isolated properties where disposal is catered for by small privately owned septic tanks, the Council on the 15th October, 1954 took delivery of an 800 gallon capacity Ford Cesspit Emptyer powered by a Perkins Diesel Engine. By utilising existing staff operating costs were reduced to a minimum, and already this piece of equipment has proved to be a very useful addition to the Council's fleet of vehicles. A charge of £1 per hour is made when employed privately (minimum £1) and although a certain amount of additional clerical and administrative work is involved, the number of requests for its services is very encouraging and the service appears to be appreciated by the general public. Income for the first 2½ months from all sources was £156.

(d) Labour.

During the year labour had to be concentrated on many of the smaller sewage works, which, by virtue of their age, were becoming in need of more than normal attention. Additional effort is still required in this direction in the coming year. Towards the end of the year a nucleus of the younger sewage works attendants had been trained to carry out repairs and replacements to ejectors, pumps and equipment, and this together with the employment by the Council of a single electrical maintenance Contractor is expected to maintain their sewage pumping equipment in a good state of repair and at reduced cost in future years.

(e) General.

Sewers throughout the district are frequently inspected and 54 cases of choked sewers were dealt with. Sewers known to have a very flat gradient are now flushed frequently. Rodent control is exercised over the whole of the Council's sewerage system twice each year. The volume of sewage to be treated at all works continues to increase considerably year by year and thus sewage works attendants are called upon to devote more time to each disposal plant under their control in order to avoid complaints of pollution and to keep effluents up to standard.

(f) **Sanitary Accomodation and Privy Conversions.**

33 properties were provided with new septic tanks which previously discharged crude sewage into open ditches and watercourses.

21 houses were re-drained completely and 54 privies and pail closets were abolished by property owners and waterbourne sanitation provided in lieu.

State of Sanitary Accommodation

Privies	599
Pails	612
Waterbourne sanitation	3,535
Total	4,746

Some 151 inspections in connection with privy conversions were carried out and at the end of the year 74.4% of all sanitary accommodation was waterbourne. Due to shortage of staff in the first nine months of the year, there was a marked drop in the number of informal notices served on property owners to convert dry closets to W.C.'s. By encouraging improvement grants it is hoped to see a greater number of privy conversions carried out next year as, without some financial incentive, owners find current building costs quite prohibitive.

(g) **Rivers and Streams.**

Informal action by your Officers was constantly maintained to reduce the possibility of pollution of rivers, streams and watercourses. Until such time as the Council complete their own re-sewerage schemes, the cleaning of open ditches and watercourses will remain a constant drain on labour. It will be appreciated that it remains a costly item to maintain ditches, into which the Council discharge partially treated sewage, in a satisfactory condition. Careful attention is given to the inspection of rivers and streams by Officers of the Rivers Boards, but fortunately no serious cases of pollution were reported.

4. CLEANSING.

Collection of Refuse. Every house throughout the area is visited once each fortnight and only in very few cases are special arrangements made to visit isolated premises and farms as and when requested. Twenty-eight notices were served requiring owners to renew defective bins and six were outstanding at the year end.

The number of new houses completed post war, including conversions and provision of flats now totals 496. It will be seen, therefore, that the original four vehicles are called upon to deal with an ever increasing volume of refuse. The position is not yet serious, but difficulties are encountered at holiday times in maintaining the service and lost time is becoming more difficult to make up.

Total fleet mileage	...	...	...	36,750
Bins emptied	...	...	...	3,944
Pail closets emptied	...	...	...	612
Privies emptied	...	...	...	599
Estimated tonnage of materials handled	...	...	...	5,980
Estimated cost of collection and disposal—per house per year	...	...	...	£1-1-7

Collecting Vehicles. Four Ford (Petrol) 10 cu. yd. side loaders are employed to maintain collection. Each vehicle is greased and serviced once per month (approx. 1,000 miles) with a detail service every 5,000 miles by Ford Agents. In view of the very dirty and dusty conditions these vehicles operate under, this practice has proved its worth in keeping the vehicles mechanically sound. Since the Council provided a proper wash, each vehicle is washed and polished once per week, and the condition of the oldest vehicle (3 years) bears testimony to the value of this policy.

Future policy on vehicles should be aimed at eventual conversion to diesel — with good quality body work — the present fleet only being replaced, vehicle by vehicle, as and when they become uneconomic to maintain.

Disposal. All refuse from the Rural District is disposed of by controlled tipping at Lingerfield and Green Hammerton. Considerable time was spent and difficulties encountered when both the tips fired during the summer months. This I feel is reflection on the growing inability of your staff to spend sufficient time on tip covering due to increased volumes of refuse being handled.

Rodent control is carried out as a routine on both tips but as is to be expected 100% extermination is almost impossible.

Towards the end of the year negotiations were begun by the Council to acquire a disused quarry site at Lingerfield some 16.2 acres in extent. If acquired this could ultimately lead to establishing a centralised depot and controlled tip and would be a considerable asset to the Council in future years.

I desire to record the appreciation of the Council to the owners of this quarry, and our present tip, for the very co-operative way they have assisted us on many occasions, particularly at the times of the tip fires.

Salvage. The value of materials recovered during the previous 5 years are as follows:—

1949	...	...	...	£276	4	0
1950	...	...	...	£200	2	1
1951	...	...	...	£801	6	6
1952	...	...	...	£383	6	11
1953	...	...	...	£354	15	2
				£2,015	14	8

An analysis of materials recovered during the year ending 31st December, 1954 is:—

		Tons.	cwts.	qtrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	...	22	1	3	153	4	1
Metals	...	13	8	2	74	13	0
Rags	...	5	2	—	146	11	1
Cullett	...	2	14	2	4	15	4
Lead	...	—	2	3	8	6	3
Total ...					£387	9	9

A permanent tip attendant could doubtless increase the amount of salvaged materials recovered and at the same time be usefully employed in the daily task of tip covering. This would maintain your tips in proper condition throughout the year and ensure against nuisance and tip fires.

Protective Clothing. Each operative employed on collection and disposal is now issued with the following:—

Jacket	}	Annually
Overalls		
Waterproof Coat	}	As worn out
Leggings		
Rubber Boots		
Protective Gloves		

HOUSING.

Statistics.

Total number of dwellings in the district ...	4,088
Total number of back to back houses ...	Nil

1. Inspections.

Total dwellings inspected for housing defects (Public Health and Housing Act) ...	141
Number of inspections made	157
Dwelling houses needing further action:—	
(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation in 1954	*10
Houses found to be unfit prior to 1954 ...	*70
(b) Number of houses (excluding (a)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation in 1954	*75
Houses found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation prior to 1954	*164
*Housing Survey still in progress. Accurate figures to be given in 1955 Report.	
(c) Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in conse- quence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	15

2. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	1
Remedied by Local Authority in default of owner	1
(b) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied under Public Health Act	5
Remedied by owners	4
Remedied by Local Authority in default ...	Nil

3. Proceedings under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.

Number of representations to Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders ...	Nil
Number of Closing Orders made	Nil
Number of houses, defects in which were remedied without making Closing Orders ...	5
Number of houses which after making Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation	Nil

4. Overcrowding.

The number of dwelling houses known to be overcrowded at the end of the year were 11. During the year 5 cases of overcrowding were relieved.

5. Town and Country Planning and Building Control.

The relaxation of licensing has undoubtedly lead to an increase in building throughout your area which may now be said to have reached pre-war level.

Quite an appreciable amount of time of your officers and clerical staff has to be devoted to Building Control. The following tabulated list serves to indicate the number of plans dealt with:—

Plans deposited for approval under Building Bye-laws	222
Applications for Planning Consideration	249
Applications under Control of Advertisements Regulations	6
Total applications dealt with during 1954	447

6. New Houses Completed.

Every assistance is given to persons desirous of modernising property or building new units of accommodation. The housing survey, which was commenced in October, occupies a large part of the time of your recently appointed Additional Sanitary Inspector. In consequence this is reflecting in an increased

amount of clerical work in preparing detailed reports on houses which may have to be dealt with. Statistics for a detailed report are being compiled for inclusion in the next Annual Report.

The position on new housing by the year end was :—

Completed by the Local Authority	...	...	...	27
Completed by Private Enterprise	...	...	...	22
Under construction (Private)	...	...	...	25
				74

7. Housing Act, 1949—Section 20—Improvement Grants.

By the year end the Council's policy of encouraging improvement grants to property owners was beginning to show results. A total of 11 schemes had been approved for work involving £2,784 and a further 29 schemes were in the course of preparation. Visits and inspections made by local authority officers to schemes of improvement during the year totalled 73.

Much valuable work in the field of housing can be carried out by encouraging owners to modernise their property. Experience gained in handling the earlier applications is making the approach to this particular work of the department more practical in its interpretation.

8. Requisitions for Information—Local Land Charges.

240 requests for information were received and dealt with.

9. Tents, Vans, Sheds and Caravans.

Every effort is made to restrict the numbers of this class of dwelling to a minimum. Unless a very careful control is exercised the numbers in this rural area would rise sharply. 44 caravans are now stationed on 4 approved sites; a further 27 are separately licensed on isolated sites. Frequent visits are made to all licenced sites and generally speaking conditions are very good.

Meat and Other Foods.

With the return of private slaughtering in June 100 per cent inspection of all carcass meat was rightly insisted upon. The existence of a large wholesale slaughterhouse at Hampsthwaite made the burden of 100 per cent inspection impossible for an indefinite period with existing staff, and in October the Council felt it necessary to employ a second Additional Meat Inspector.

In spite of the many and varied representations made by owners of the 17 pre-war slaughterhouses licenced by the Council, improvements were secured to and 8 slaughterhouses only were licenced for killing.

Co-operation between butcher and local authority is for the most part very good but even so quite considerable numbers of hours of morning, evening and week-end overtime are necessary on the part of your inspectors. Up to the end of the year the following table shows the quantity of carcass meat inspected.

Carcasses inspected and passed fit for consumption.

(a)	Beasts	...	...	733
(b)	Pigs	...	...	3195
(c)	Sheep	...	...	1987
(d)	Calves	...	...	418
Total				6,333

Carcass meat, organs and/or offal condemned:

(a)	For tuberculosis	...	9059
(b)	Other diseases or conditions		3985
			13,044 lbs.

All condemned meat is removed from the slaughterhouses under supervision of the Council's staff and suitably disposed of after staining. The income from the sale of condemned meat is £120 per annum, which helps to defray the cost of collection and disposal.

Pig weighing and grading for the Ministry of Food is also being undertaken, from which an income of £6 9s. 6d. was derived to the year end.

Large scale alterations to the Hampsthwaite slaughterhouse are being encouraged which, when completed, should tend towards reducing the overtime at present carried out at this establishment.

Ice Cream.

19 Ice Cream Retailers are registered in this district and there are no manufacturers. All ice-cream retailed is now pre-packed.

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION

During the year the Council's Rodent Officer made 544 initial visits to premises within the area. As a result of these inspections it was discovered that 146 properties were infested and required treatment.

142 treatments were subsequently carried out by the Rodent Officer which necessitated a total of 1471 visits.

Visits were again confined chiefly to agricultural premises as being the most probable reservoirs of infestation, and it is noted by comparison with the previous year's figures that the percentage of actual infested premises in relation to the total inspections made shows a definite decline, which is encouraging.

The service proves very popular, particularly to farmers, many of whom have requested our operator to make periodical inspections.

A minimum charge of 35/- per treatment was maintained for this service and the actual cost to the Council, taking into account the Ministry Grant was £58.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The total number of Factories now on the register of this district is 99, to which 35 inspections were made for the purpose of ensuring proper provision was made for sanitary accommodation etc. 8 unsatisfactory premises were found and after informal representation to the owners, all 8 defects were remedied.

